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Subcommittee Holds Hearing to Examine Domestic Partnership Benefits Legislation *Legislation would extend federal employee benefits to domestic partners of federal workers*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia will hold a legislative hearing to examine H.R. 2517, the “Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act of 2009,” introduced by Representatives Tammy Baldwin and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the merits of H.R. 2517, as well as to discuss the bill’s potential costs and associated implementation issues.

As introduced in the 111th Congress, H.R. 2517 would entitle domestic partners of federal employees to the same benefits currently available to the spouses of federal employees, including health insurance, retirement, and disability benefits. Notably, the bill would also require that same-sex partners be subject to the same obligations presently imposed upon married heterosexual couples, such as anti-nepotism rules and financial disclosure requirements.

“With nearly 61% of federal employees eligible to retire within the next seven years, it is essential that we consider sensible legislative initiatives designed to promote federal employee retention and recruitment,” said Chairman Stephen F. Lynch. “By extending federal health insurance, retirement, disability, and other benefits to domestic partners of federal employees, H.R. 2517 would place the federal government on par with the private sector, where such benefits are already widely available.”

As the nation’s largest civilian employer, with over 2.7 million employees, the federal government has historically served as a leader in terms of offering employee benefits and

fostering an equitable workplace. Presently, 286 of the nation's Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partnership benefits. In addition, approximately 10,000 employers nationwide provide benefits to domestic partners, including over 500 public sector employers and of these, 19 state governments, the District of Columbia, and over 150 local governments.

To view a webcast of the Subcommittee hearing, please click on the link below:

[Click Here](#)

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Documents and Links

- [Testimony of M. V. Lee Badgett](#)
- [Testimony of Rep. Tammy Baldwin](#)
- [Testimony of John Berry](#)
- [Testimony of Greg Franklin](#)
- [Testimony of Amb. Michael Guest](#)
- [Testimony of Lorilyn Holmes](#)
- [Testimony of Frank Page](#)
- [Testimony of Carolyn Wright](#)
- [American Airlines-For the Record](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign-For the Record](#)
- [International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers -For the Record](#)
- [National Treasury Employees Union-For the Record](#)
- [Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays-For the Record](#)
- [Alternatives to Marriage Project-For the Record](#)
- [American Federation of Government Employees-For the Record](#)